

(5) *Expiration of approvals.* If an association does not open a branch within the time specified in the approval, and the Director or his or her designee finds that the association is not making a good-faith effort to open the branch promptly, the approval will be deemed to have expired and the association will be required to reapply if it wants to branch in that location.

(d) *Federal preemption.* This exercise of the OTS's authority is preemptive of any state law purporting to address the subject of branching by a Federal savings association.

[57 FR 12207, Apr. 9, 1992, as amended at 60 FR 66718, Dec. 26, 1995; 62 FR 64146, Dec. 4, 1997. Redesignated at 66 FR 65820, Dec. 21, 2001]

**§ 545.95 Change of office location and redesignation of offices.**

(a) *Eligibility.* A Federal savings association may change the permanent location of its home office or any approved branch office, or redesignate a home or branch office subject to the appropriate expedited or standard treatment procedures for establishing a branch office set forth in § 545.92 of this part.

(b) *Processing of application.* (1) Processing of an application for a change of office location or redesignation of a home or branch office shall follow the procedures set forth in § 545.92 of this part, except that:

(i) The applicant shall publish the required newspaper notice of application in the applicant's home office community, the community to be served by the new office, and the community where the office is to be closed or the home office is to be redesignated as a branch; and

(ii) The applicant shall post notice of the application for 25 days from the date of first publication in a prominent location in the office to be closed or redesignated.

(2) The OTS may approve an amendment to an association's charter in connection with approval of a home office relocation or redesignation under this section.

(c) *Short-distance relocations.* (1) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this section, an association may change the permanent location of a home or

branch office, without applying for approval by the OTS, to a site within the market area and short-distance relocation area of the office site that has been approved in accordance with § 545.92 of this part or paragraph (a) of this section. The short-distance relocation area of an office site is:

(i) The area within a 1,000-foot radius of the site if it is located within a central city of a Metropolitan Statistical Area ("MSA") designated by the U.S. Department of Commerce;

(ii) The area within a one-mile radius of the site if it is located within an MSA designated by the U.S. Department of Commerce but not within a central city; or

(iii) The area within a two-mile radius of the site if it is not located within a MSA.

(2) An association shall notify the OTS in writing at least 30 days before such an office relocation and may proceed with the relocation unless, within 30 days of receipt of the notice, the OTS notifies the association that the relocation does not satisfy the criteria set forth in the first sentence of paragraph (c)(1) of this section, in which case the association must file an application and obtain approval by the OTS in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section.

[57 FR 14341, Apr. 20, 1992, as amended at 62 FR 64146, Dec. 4, 1997]

**§ 545.96 Agency office.**

(a) *General.* A Federal savings association may establish or maintain an agency office that engages only in one or more of the following activities: (1) Servicing or originating (but not approving) loans and contracts; (2) managing or selling real estate owned by the Federal savings association; or (3) conducting fiduciary activities or activities ancillary to the association's fiduciary business in compliance with subpart A of part 550 of this chapter.

(b) *Additional services.* Except for payment on savings accounts, offering of any services not listed in paragraph (a) of this section may be approved by the OTS.

(c) *Records.* An agency office shall maintain records of all business it transacts and transmit copies to a

## Office of Thrift Supervision, Treasury

## § 545.121

branch or home office of the Federal savings association.

[54 FR 49492, Nov. 30, 1989, as amended at 54 FR 50614, Dec. 8, 1989; 55 FR 13512, Apr. 11, 1990; 57 FR 14342, Apr. 20, 1992; 68 FR 53025, Sept. 9, 2003]

### § 545.101 Fiscal agency.

A Federal savings association designated fiscal agent by the Secretary of the Treasury or with Office approval by another instrumentality of the United States, shall, as such, perform such reasonable duties and exercise only such powers and privileges as the Secretary of the Treasury or such instrumentality may prescribe.

### § 545.121 Indemnification of directors, officers and employees.

A Federal savings association shall indemnify its directors, officers, and employees in accordance with the following requirements:

(a) *Definitions and rules of construction.* (1) Definitions for purposes of this section.

(i) *Action.* The term “action” means any judicial or administrative proceeding, or threatened proceeding, whether civil, criminal, or otherwise, including any appeal or other proceeding for review;

(ii) *Court.* The term “court” includes, without limitation, any court to which or in which any appeal or any proceeding for review is brought.

(iii) *Final judgment.* The term “final judgment” means a judgment, decree, or order which is not appealable or as to which the period for appeal has expired with no appeal taken.

(iv) *Settlement.* The term “settlement” includes entry of a judgment by consent or confession or a plea of guilty or *nolo contendere*.

(2) References in this section to any individual or other person, including any association, shall include legal representatives, successors, and assigns thereof.

(b) *General.* Subject to paragraphs (c) and (g) of this section, a savings association shall indemnify any person against whom an action is brought or threatened because that person is or was a director, officer, or employee of the association, for:

(1) Any amount for which that person becomes liable under a judgment if such action; and

(2) Reasonable costs and expenses, including reasonable attorney’s fees, actually paid or incurred by that person in defending or settling such action, or in enforcing his or her rights under this section if he or she attains a favorable judgment in such enforcement action.

(c) *Requirements.* Indemnification shall be made to such period under paragraph (b) of this section only if:

(1) Final judgment on the merits is in his or her favor; or

(2) In case of:

(i) Settlement,

(ii) Final judgment against him or her, or

(iii) Final judgment in his or her favor, other than on the merits, if a majority of the disinterested directors of the savings association determine that he or she was acting in good faith within the scope of his or her employment or authority as he or she could reasonably have perceived it under the circumstances and for a purpose he or she could reasonably have believed under the circumstances was in the best interests of the savings association or its members.

However, no indemnification shall be made unless the association gives the Office at least 60 days’ notice of its intention to make such indemnification. Such notice shall state the facts on which the action arose, the terms of any settlement, and any disposition of the action by a court. Such notice, a copy thereof, and a certified copy of the resolution containing the required determination by the board of directors shall be sent to the Regional Director, who shall promptly acknowledge receipt thereof. The notice period shall run from the date of such receipt. No such indemnification shall be made if the OTS advises the association in writing, within such notice period, of his or her objection thereto.

(d) *Insurance.* A savings association may obtain insurance to protect it and its directors, officers, and employees from potential losses arising from claims against any of them for alleged wrongful acts, or wrongful acts, committed in their capacity as directors,